



PORT OF PLYMOUTH

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. T.A.L. Rees

For the year 1971



I N T R O D U C T I O N

This report is in the form and sequence prescribed for Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Port Health Authorities by the Ministry of Health, Form Port 20, dated October, 1952.

The pattern of sea traffic has not significantly changed during the past 5 years.

Alien passengers arrive and depart mainly from

(a) calling cruise liners (b) yachts (c) crews' relatives.

There is no regular passenger service at Plymouth.

SECTION I - STAFF

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any Other Appointments held
T.A.I. Rees	Port Medical Officer	9.5.66	B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, City of Plymouth
G.B. Carter	Deputy Port Medical Officer	5.7.48	M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Senior School Medical Officer, City of Plymouth
W.H. Johnson	Port Health	3.6.69	Sanitary Inspectors Certificate, Diploma for Inspector of Meat and other Foods.	

Address and Telephone Number of the Medical Officer of Health:

Port Health Office: Millbay Docks, Plymouth

Telephone Plymouth 68000, Ext. 2229 by day. If no reply Ext. 2128

Telephone Plymouth 64101 at night and weekend (Ambulance Headquarters)

City Office: Municipal Offices, City Centre, Plymouth

Telephone Plymouth 68000 Ext. 2128

SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the Year

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having had during the voyage infectious diseases on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	1,036	627,958	Nil	502	Nil
Coastwise	1,083	960,696	Nil	565	Nil
Total	2,119	1,588,654	Nil	1,067	Nil

SECTION III

Character of Shipping and Trade during the Year

Passenger Traffic ...	Number of Passengers INWARDS	1,072
	Number of Passengers OUTWARDS	1,258

Cargo Traffic ... Principal IMPORTS

Preserved meat and cheese from Holland.
Fresh fruit and vegetables from Holland, France and Spain
Timber from Canada, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Finland, East Germany and U.S.A.
Grain from Holland, France and Germany.
Fuel Oils from the West Indies, Singapore and Greece.
Fertilisers from Holland, Germany, France, Sweden and Finland.
Wines and spirits from Holland and France.
Tinned and dried Milk from Holland.
Fresh fruit from Cyprus.
Confectionery from Holland.
Oyster shell from the continent.
Liquified Petroleum Gas from France.
Potatoes from Egypt.
Steel from Holland and Belgium.
Motor Spirit from Germany, Aden and Belgium.

Coastal

Coal from South Wales and North-East ports.
Petrol, oil and paraffin from Farley, Hamble, Milford Haven, Swansea, Brixham and Falmouth.
Fertilisers from Immingham and Belfast.
Potatoes from Northern Ireland.
Grain from Avonmouth, Isle of Wight, Blyth and Kings Lynn.
Gypsum from Ireland.
Tomatoes from Jersey.
Cable from Southampton.

Principal EXPORTS

China Clay.
Granite chippings.
Scrap metals.
Fertilisers.
Broken glass.
Limestone.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive

<u>Asia and Australasia</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>America</u>	<u>Africa</u>
Singapore	Rotterdam	Vancouver	Las Palmas
	Gibraltar	Trinidad	Alexandria
	Ghent	San Francisco	Cape Town
	Brest	New York	
	La Pallice	Recife	
	Le Havre		
	Antwerp		
	Amsterdam		
	Bordeaux		
	Roscoff		

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Principal Ports from which Ships arrive (Cont'd)

<u>Asia and Australasia</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>America</u>	<u>Africa</u>
---	Limassol	---	---
	Rouen		
	Gothenburg		
	Hamina		
	Lisbon		
	Confreville		
	Roytta		
	Copenhagen		
	Gdynia		

SECTION IV

INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic at the port.

SECTION V

Water Supply

1(a) The source of water supply for the Port, British Transport Docks, Victoria Wharves, Cattedown and Sutton Harbour is from Plymouth Corporation Water Department hydrants on the wharves.

(b) Shipping is supplied with water from hydrants on the wharves and from H.M. Dockyard water-boats.

2. Regular sampling of the water supply is carried out throughout the year. All samples submitted have proved satisfactory.

3. Hydrants are always metal covered when not in use. Hosepipes - water supply to vessels is allowed to pass to waste before connection is made. Hosepipes when not in use are maintained in store.

4. Two water boats are available from the Admiralty Dockyard, and these are supervised by the Naval Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION VI

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1970

(1) List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6)

A list of Seaports and Airports in which a confirmed or suspected quarantinable disease has occurred is supplied weekly by the World Health Organisation, Geneva. Copies are typed and sent to the Chief Pilot, H.M. Customs and to all the boarding Medical Officers.

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PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1970 (CON'D)

(2) Radio Messages (Regulation 13)

(a) There are no arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships arriving from foreign ports to enter the district except for foreign warships and Royal Navy Auxiliary vessels which are in radio communication with the Plymouth Naval Base and report their state of health prior to entering the port. Other vessels anchor in the Sound which is a recognised mooring station and are there boarded.

Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)

(b) Vessels landing passengers and any other vessels requiring the attention of the Port Medical Officer, usually wireless their time of arrival at the Port and the state of health on board to the agents. The latter then inform the Port Health Authority and, in the case of vessels landing passengers, give the time the vessel is expected to anchor in the Sound. In addition, sometimes the information is passed to the Port Health Authority via the Post Office Telecommunications. The Medical Officer boards the vessel by means of the Port Health launch. If there are any infectious conditions aboard, the vessel is required to give preliminary radio warning either to the Port Health Authority or to the local Agents in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970.

(3) Notification otherwise than by radio (Regulation 14 (1) (b))

Vessels entering the Port requiring the Port Medical Officer, fly the appropriate flag and are boarded in the Sound by the Medical Officer and the Inspector by means of the Port Health launch, which is prepared to land cases if necessary.

After office hours, information concerning ships entering the Port flying a signal for the Port Medical Officer is received from the Queen's Harbourmaster, H.M. Customs or Royal Naval Authorities.

(4) Mooring Stations (Regulations 22 to 30)

Jennycliffe Bay in Plymouth Sound is used as a mooring station in the case of vessels which intend entering the Docks.

As the larger liners lie off Cawsand Bay or just inside the Breakwater, the usual anchorage is regarded as a mooring station.

(5) Arrangements for:

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox)

Cases of infectious disease landed from vessels are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. Cases suffering from Tuberculosis may be accommodated by arrangement at the Mount Gould Orthopaedic Hospital, Plymouth, if unfit to travel to their home address.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

Where necessary, the names and intended destinations of passengers disembarking from a ship who are contacts of infectious disease are forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health in the appropriate districts.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

When cases of infectious disease are removed from ships in the motor launch "Argus" to hospital ashore, the quarters on board are disinfected with Formalin as necessary.

Clothing, bedding, etc., are conveyed to the Scott Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

SECTION VII

SMALLPOX

1. Isolation hospitals available.

The first case or cases would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall (Telephone: Liskeard 2385), staffed from the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. (Telephone 51437)
Consultant Physician: Dr. G.R. Steed.

Should it appear likely that more extensive accommodation would be required, arrangements would be made for the Lee Mill Smallpox Hospital, at present used for geriatric cases, to be re-opened as a Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for the transport of cases to hospital

The launch "Argus" of the Plymouth Port Health Authority, based at Millbay Docks, Plymouth (Telephone Plymouth 68000, extn. 2229 or 2128 by day and Plymouth 64101 at night and weekends) is available to transport cases from ship to shore. The launch is equipped with a radio transmitter and receiver linked to the Plymouth Ambulance Headquarters.

Ambulances of the Plymouth City Council's Ambulance Service (Telephone: Plymouth 64101) are available to transport cases to hospital.

3. Smallpox consultants.

Dr. W.H. St. John-Brooks
West Cornwall Hospital
Penzance, Cornwall.

Office Telephone 07362382
Home Telephone: 0736 752439

4. Facilities for the laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Materials for the collection of specimens from suspected cases are always available at the Port Health Offices, Plymouth.

Specimens are forwarded to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London N.W.9.

SECTION VIII

VENEREAL DISEASE

Location and facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease:-

Plymouth General Hospital, Treatment Clinic,
Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

Days and hours of attendance :-

Monday	.....	6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday	.....	10.00 a.m. -11.30 a.m.
Wednesday	.....	10.30 a.m. -12.00 noon.
Thursday	.....	6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
Saturday	.....	11.00 a.m. -12.30 p.m.

Copies of this timetable are held by all Shipping Agents, and the Port Health Inspector notifies captains as necessary.

During the year 152 seamen were treated at the Venereal Disease Clinic.

The nationalities were as follows:-

British	115
Other Nationalities	37
		<hr/>
		152
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SECTION IX

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

Nil

SECTION X

OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

There were no cases of malaria brought to notice in ships arriving at Plymouth during the year.

SECTION XI

MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No plague infected or suspected ships entered the Port during the year.

SECTION XII

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

1. Ships arriving at the various wharves are boarded by the Port Health Inspector or Rodent Operator. Enquiries are made of the officers and crew as to evidence of rat infestation. Docksidcs, wharves and warehouses in dock areas are under constant surveillance for evidence of rodent infestation, and Foreman Stevedores are also questioned as to the presence of rats. Where evidence of rat infestation is found, trapping or poisoning is carried out by the Rodent Operator.
2. All rats caught are destroyed and some specimens found are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth. One rat was submitted for examination. Report revealed no evidence of *pasturella* infection.
3. If necessary, deratting of ships would be carried out by poisoning using 1080. This treatment would be carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

Should it be deemed necessary to fumigate a vessel, Methyl Bromide or Hydrogen Cyanide would be used, depending on availability. Fumigation would be carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

Commercial Contractors carrying out such deratting treatments are:-

1. Conbra-pest Services Ltd., 2 Ransleigh Road, London E.6.
2. Rentokil Laboratories Ltd., Marine and Fumigation Division, 112 Victoria Dock Road, London E.16.

Small interim treatments are carried out by the Port Health Authority's Rodent Operator using Warfarin.

4. Inspections confirm that rat proofing principles are incorporated in the construction of modern vessels.

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MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS (CONT'D)

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports:-

NIL

Rodents destroyed in docks, quays, wharves and warehouses:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	88
Sent for examination	1
Species not known	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

Number of rats presumed killed, based on amount of poison bait consumed: 130

Number of mice presumed killed: 221

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING
THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN 1	Other fumigant (state method) 2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	60	60

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT, 1949
(Application to Shipping Order 1951)

No rodent control certificates were issued to coastal vessels during the year.

SECTION XIII

INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General Hygiene		-	1	Complied
Vermin;		-	2	Complied
Sanitary Defects		-	1	Complied
Total	1,067	-	4	4

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 & 1948

Under the above regulations, the following were made prohibited areas for the gathering of mussels, cockles, winkles, limpets and other shell-fish for human consumption by an Order made in 1936 :-

Hoee Lake
The Hamoaze, including West Mud
St. John's Lake
Off Torpoint Institution
River Tamar and its tributaries

Weston Mill Lake
Off Rat's Island
Mouth of St. German's River
Off Saltash

Notice boards are maintained warning persons that the taking of shell-fish for sale for human consumption is forbidden. No formal action has been necessary under the regulations.

In 1966 the order was amended to permit oysters being taken for sale for human consumption from the river Lynher and river Tamar (off Henn Point) condition on the oysters being cleansed at the plant operated by Saltash Corporation. The Ministry of Health withdrew approval of this plant in 1967, which in effect closes the fisheries.

SECTION XV

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS & COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

1. List of Medical Inspectors of Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants holding Warrants of Appointment :

Dr. T.A.I. Rees
Dr. G.B. Carter
Dr. T.R. Forrest

Dr. N.R. Matheson
Dr. L.N. Trethowan
Dr. W.H. Haskins

2. List of other staff engaged on this work:

Nil

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MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS & COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS (CONT'D)

3. Organisation of works:

Ships carrying aliens and commonwealth immigrants are boarded as necessary by the Medical Officer. Most of the work in connection with their Medical Inspection is carried out by the Deputy Port Medical Officer, the remaining officers being available for relief duties.

4a. Nature and amount of aliens and Commonwealth immigrant traffic:

With the cessation of passenger liner traffic the majority of aliens using the port are short-stay visitors.

During the year the number of incoming aliens was 1,376 and the number of outgoing aliens was 1,076.

The number of incoming Commonwealth immigrants was 25 and the number of outgoing immigrants was 38.

4b. Number of conditional entries of Commonwealth Immigrants:

Number of	Number medically	Number landed
25	Nil	Nil

5. Accommodation for medical inspection and examination:

A room for medical examination is provided in the Port Health Office.

SECTION XVI

MISCELLANEOUS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD SHIP FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disposal of the dead is carried out under conditions prescribed by the Medical Officer of Health in accordance with the nature of the disease. The public mortuary is available to accommodate bodies if necessary. Cremation is advocated and is available locally.

82 persons landing during the year (including crew members) received treatment for injuries or non-infectious diseases.

FOOD INSPECTION

During the year 116 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937 and 1948 and the Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations 1968.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome or unfit for human consumption, consisted of :--

Tinned Meat	.....	6 cwt. 0 qtr. 20 lb.
Tinned Foods	.....	1 ton. 17 cwt. 1 qtr. 10 lb.
Ice Cream	.....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. 88 packets.
Pastry	.....	2 cwt. 0 qtr. 24 lb.
Fish	.....	1 Doz. Cod Portions. 1 lb. Hake Fillets.
Bacon	.....	15 ozs.
Pickled Onions	.....	16 gallons.
Sauces	.....	2 gallons.
Lard	.....	1 cwt. 0qtr. 12 lb.
Salad Cream	.....	3 gallons.
Fruit Juice	.....	15 gallons.
Meat Pies	.....	144
Fish Fingers	.....	289 Packets.
Peaches	259 trays.
Cooked Ham	3 cwt. 18 lb.
Onions	56 lb.
Drinking Chocolate	2 lb.



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